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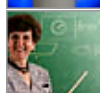
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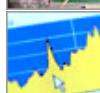
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NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

December 2010

March 2011

Release Date

7 December 2010

8 March 2011

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the September 2010 issue of Tasmanian Statistical News.

Want to hear about Australia's biggest health survey ever? Or the new interactive health web page on the ABS website? Interested in finding out about the recent Food Security Data Workshop? Or the release of the Tasmanian Food and Beverage Industry ScoreCard? Would you like to provide feedback to a Land Account Discussion Paper? This issue's hot topics will cover those areas of interest.

Also discussed in this issue are recruitment processes for the 2011 Census, new ABS website features, changes to Estimated Resident Population release, changes to the CURF web portal, the recent Community Indicators Seminar, understanding data quality, integration principles, and Tasmanian publications that give you a snapshot of economic and social indicators for the State.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

What's New



WHAT'S NEW

2011 Census is coming!

News from the Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre

Australian Health Survey 2011 - Biggest ever

New health web page

New ABS website features

Changes to Estimated Resident Population release

Changes to CURF web portal

New releases

2011 CENSUS IS COMING!

Did you know?

- The Population and Housing Census counts everyone in Australia including overseas visitors on Census night, wherever they are.
- The next Census will be held on 9th August, 2011.
- In July 2011, around 30,000 census collectors (approximately 800 in Tasmania) will begin delivering census forms to every household in Australia.
- It will take 10,720 man hours to print, collate, pack and shrink wrap the census forms.
- 5,000 kilograms of ink will be required for the printing stage and almost 19,000 litres of glue to bind the forms together.

What can you do?

The ABS will be recruiting for the 2011 Census.

Recruitment will begin in October 2010 with District Managers' positions in each state and territory. This will be followed by the recruitment of Area Supervisors in February 2011 and then Collectors in April 2011. Information on how to apply for these positions will be in your local paper around these

times, and on the [recruitment pages](#) of the ABS website.

If you work for an agency that may be able to assist the ABS with recruitment, please come and have a chat with our Census team or contact Ruth McArdle, our Census Manager, on (03) 6222 5767.

For further information about the Census, have a look at the [Census web page](#) or check out our [2011 Census of Population and Housing Local & Regional Engagement Strategy](#) (cat. no. 2911.0.55.001) or the publication [Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2011](#) (cat. no. 2008.0).



Census forms held in quarantine, awaiting approval



Collating and gluing the census forms

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NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE BUSINESS STATISTICS CENTRE

Over the last few months, Hobart's Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre (BSC) has been busy with the release of a number of publications on the ABS Website.

Sourced from the Agricultural Survey 2009, and following on from the original data released in April, small area data for agricultural commodities (area of production of crops, livestock numbers) have now been released and can be found in [Agricultural Commodities, Australia](#) (cat. no. 7121.0). In the form of data cubes, the small area data are reported by Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and also Statistical Division (SD).

Further water estimates (i.e. type and area of crops irrigated, water sources, irrigation methods) for additional regions including Murray-Darling Basin, Non Murray-Darling Basin, NRM and SD regions have also now been released in [Water Use on Australian Farms](#) (cat. no. 4618.0).

As promised in our last issue, VACP (Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced) estimates for 2008-09 were released on 18 June 2010. Published annually, these estimates provide a dollar value for agricultural commodities such as livestock and livestock products as well as crops, fruit and vegetables. Also, the VACP small area data, by NRM and SD regions, have now been released as data cubes. All of this VACP data can be viewed in [Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia](#) (cat. no. 7503.0).

Keep an eye out for another of our annual publications, [Australian Farming in Brief, 2010](#) (cat. no. 7106.0) which is expected to be published by the end of September. Released as a downloadable pamphlet, it will contain snapshots of Australian farming, including the number of businesses with agricultural activity, land use on farms, major crops, livestock, exports and irrigation activity.

The BSC is continuing its publication format review and looking to find out more from data users so that environmental and agricultural data can be more easily used by a wider range of individuals. To make contributions to this review process, phone (03) 6222 5846 or email: agriculture.statistics@abs.gov.au

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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 2011 - BIGGEST EVER

The health of Australians will be getting its most comprehensive check-up ever, with the

announcement of the Australian Health Survey to be conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The survey is being planned in close consultation with the Department of Health and Ageing and the National Heart Foundation of Australia. It will include new and better measures of what Australians are eating and how physically active we are. It will also collect other health information, such as whether people have been diagnosed with arthritis or heart disease.

In another first, the survey will also measure chronic disease risk factors such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure. The survey will also ask people to consider a visit to a pathology centre so that information on health risks factors can be derived from blood and urine samples. This will give a more accurate picture of the number of Australians with health issues such as high cholesterol, diabetes risk or poor nutritional status.

Around 50,000 people across Australia will be asked to take part in the survey, which is planned to start in 2011. Further information is available on [The Australian Health Survey](#) home page.

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NEW HEALTH WEB PAGE

The ABS Health and Disability section has put together a new look [theme page](#) (accessed through [Topics@ a Glance](#) on the ABS website). The page has some fun interactive graphics such as 'If Australia were only 100 people' which shows health data visually, and a BMI man that grows or shrinks as you do.

There's a 'Did you know' section with interesting health data grabs, and a 'What's new' section showcasing the latest ABS health publications, such as [Mental Health of Young People](#) (cat. no. 4840.0.55.001), and the new Patient Experience Survey publication, [Health Services: Patient Experiences in Australia](#) (cat. no. 4839.0.55.001).

There's even a link to keep you up to date with the development of the new [Australian Health Survey](#).

To see all this, as well as a wide range of ABS and other health-related publications, pay us a visit - and watch this space for the new Disability page coming soon!

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NEW ABS WEBSITE FEATURES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released the following information portals to assist users in finding data they need:

[Local Government Portal](#)

[Small Business Portal](#)

[Geography Portal](#)

[Frequently asked questions](#)

Local Government Portal

The [Local Government Portal](#) was updated to incorporate new formatting standards and to provide the most current and relevant information available to local government sector clients. These include individual councils, groups of councils and local government associations.

The Local Government Portal contains information about the following:

- finding data for Local Government Areas
- finding data for states/territories
- helping clients use data
- how the ABS uses client data
- keeping clients informed
- helpful links for government.

Small Business Portal

The [Services We Provide to Small Business](#) page has been designed to assist small business owners in finding the data they need for market research, profiling customers and planning a business case.

Key features of the page include:

- easy access to commonly used ABS products
- links to ABS publications containing data specifically on small business characteristics
- links to sources of non-ABS data that can be used to assist with business planning.

Geography Portal

The [Geography Portal](#) will aid users of ABS data to more easily find information about statistical geography. The Geography Portal contains information about the current and future statistical geography used by the ABS, links to information that will assist in using statistics, such as classifications and digital boundaries and 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

The Geography Portal is the place to find up-to-date information about the changes to statistical geography that will occur in 2011. The ABS primarily uses the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and Census geographic areas for the dissemination of statistics, but from July 2011, the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) will replace the ASGC.

Frequently Asked Questions

The development of Online [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) is designed to improve our customers' ability to successfully access, use and understand ABS statistics. It targets in particular the 'tourist' category of user who is not familiar with ABS terminology, statistical concepts or organisation of the ABS website.

Existing banks of information, material and resources developed over a number of years have been integrated into a searchable online tool. Prior to the implementation and release of the FAQs, it was difficult to find relevant frequently asked questions regarding specific categories or topics. Having a central place/link on the ABS website will enable users to quickly find FAQs relevant to their particular area of interest. It has been designed to facilitate targeted topic browsing and improved consistency across the ABS website.

Benefits to customers are:

- easier access to ABS statistics
- easier ways to find the correct use of data for known issues e.g. homelessness statistics
- assistance in finding currently topical or "in the news" data - particularly relevant for journalists
- targeted suites of FAQs for specific customer groups e.g. small business.

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CHANGES TO ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION RELEASE

Six-monthly revisions to Estimated Resident Population

With the release of the March quarter 2010 issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0) in late September 2010, the ABS will undertake six-monthly revisions to Estimated Resident Population (ERP). These improvements are designed to give a more current and accurate ERP by using up-to-date Net Overseas Migration (NOM) data. There will be no impact on the difference between preliminary and final NOM estimates, rather these changes will provide for the earlier release of revised ERP estimates.

Alongside the introduction of improved estimation methods for NOM, the ABS has developed an analytical data set called the 'Travellers Characteristics Data Base'. Using final NOM data, this allows the derivation of an individual's actual travel behaviour and record certain characteristics for any traveller contributing to NOM.

For further information see [Demography News, Aug 2010](#) (cat no 3106.0, released 17/08/2010).

Merging of age-sex population estimates into Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

The release of the March quarter 2010 issue of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) in late September 2010 will also include ERP broken down by age and sex as well as other associated data previously published in Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories (cat. no. 3201.0). The production of Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories (cat. no. 3201.0) will cease following the release of June quarter 2010 data (scheduled for release in December 2010). The inclusion of age-sex data in this publication will ensure consistency between ERP totals and the relevant age-sex breakdowns at all times, particularly following ERP revisions.

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CHANGES TO CURF WEB PORTAL

Recently the Microdata Access Strategies Section undertook a project to remediate Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) titling and visibility on the ABS website. The changes assist users to locate and identify the CURFs and their associated Technical Manuals, Data Item Lists and Information Papers.

What has changed?

There is now a direct link to the CURF Microdata Entry Page via the 'Discover CURF Microdata' logo on the right hand side of the ABS home page.

'Microdata' has been added to the title on all CURF releases which enables users to locate CURFs from all ABS pages including search results retrieved via the Google search engine.

Some changes were made to product catalogue numbers to merge related products together. Where this has happened notes have been attached to the 'About this release page'. Searches on the old catalogue numbers can be conducted using the Google search engine and results should direct users to the correct product.

CURF product information can now be searched separately to other ABS statistical information via the 'Statistics' page on the ABS website. A search is possible by catalogue number, release date or topic.

Currently we do not recommend using the by title view and would encourage all users to continue their use of the List of Available CURFs page.

We believe these changes will help you to locate CURF products with a new level of ease, so please have a look!

All feedback is welcome at microdata.access@abs.gov.au

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NEW RELEASES -

- Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0)

The ABS released the latest edition of Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) on 30 June 2010. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time. The publication is available for free download from www.abs.gov.au/socialtrends.

The latest edition features six articles:

- population growth: past, present and future
- men's health
- child care
- underemployment
- who's afraid? feelings of personal safety
- environmental awareness and action.

The publication shows that:

- In 2007-08, Tasmania had the lowest rates of concern about the environment (77%), while the Australian Capital Territory (90%) and South Australia (86%) had the highest rates of concern.
- Tasmania had the lowest proportion of adults who reported their water consumption had decreased (31%) compared with Victoria (66%) and South Australia (65%).
- The proportion of adults who felt unsafe when alone in certain situations was lowest in Tasmania (17%), well below the national average (26%) and considerably lower than the proportion in the Northern Territory (35%) or Western Australia (31%).

The release also includes indicator spreadsheets presenting national and state summary data on population, education and other areas.

- Measures of Australia's Progress: Regional Data (cat. no. 1370.0)

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) (cat. no. 1370.0) tries to answer the question: **'is life in Australia getting better?'**. The next edition is due for release on 15 September 2010 as a web-based publication. There will be spreadsheets containing the data used in MAP available to download and the state and territory headline indicators data will also be available (where applicable). The publication will also include, for the first time, a slim-line brochure which highlights key information from MAP.

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Hot Topics



HOT TOPICS

Food Security Data Workshop

Release of Tasmanian Food and Beverage Industry ScoreCard 2007-08

Community Indicators Seminar

Discussion Paper - Land Account, Australia

Understanding Data Quality - helping you make better decisions

Commonwealth health agencies endorse statistical integration principles

Interested in Tasmanian economic and social indicators?

FOOD SECURITY DATA WORKSHOP

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recently hosted a Food Security Data Workshop in its Hobart Office, with the support of the Social Inclusion Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The workshop focused on current research and available data sources and gave government agencies and community organisations with an interest in food security research an opportunity to meet and discuss future approaches to monitoring food security issues in Tasmania.

Several presentations were made by people working in the area of Population Health (DHHS). Judy Seal spoke about the need to develop a monitoring and surveillance framework for food security in Tasmania, while Julie Williams outlined some of the available data sources and research already being done in this space. Louise Hawker (ABS) presented relevant ABS data sources and an overview of Tim Landrigan's project in WA, where he is currently outposted to the Environmental Health Directorate to work on a Market Basket Survey as part of the COAG Food Security Agenda.

All of the presentations were well received and the workshop attendees enjoyed both lively discussions and great networking opportunities.

The workshop participants agreed that, while it is still some way off, there would be considerable merit in having a national approach for a standardised market basket survey. Different states are currently developing their own market basket surveys, although WA is working towards making theirs nationally applicable. A consistent nationwide framework would allow comparisons of food prices and availability over time, critical to identifying if regional and/or socio-economic differences exist, and ultimately to assess if food security is improving or becoming worse in Australia. At minimum, Tasmania should strive towards a statewide approach.

Workshop participants discussed data gaps and identified the following three priorities:

- production: what capacity does Tasmania have to meet its own food demand?
- access: How many people are suffering food insecurity? Who are they? And why are they?
- supply: What is available in terms of quality and price? How is it made available - what are the barriers to market entry and expansion? How does the lack of infrastructure impact on food security?

The Tasmanian Government and the Tasmanian Food Security Council have recently sought proposals from individual and coalitions of organisations across community, government and business to address the production, storage, distribution, access or consumption of nutritious food or develop monitoring and surveillance methods to measure food security in Tasmania. The aim of the Tasmanian Food Security Fund is to establish innovative responses across the State that will improve Tasmanians' access to a supply of food that is sufficient, reliable, nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable.

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RELEASE OF TASMANIAN FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY SCORECARD 2007-08

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) recently updated its Food ScoreCard to include 2007-08 output values for food produced in Tasmania.

Based on a model developed by the South Australian Department of Primary Industries, the Tasmanian Food and Beverage Industry ScoreCard 2007-08 tracks annual growth in food production, examining the value creation chain and identifying which markets predominate.

What is the real value of Tasmania's food, agriculture and fishing industries? Given the importance of the sector to the State's economy it would be expected that there would be a precise answer.

While the value of agricultural and fisheries production has been reported annually, the packaged and processed value of Tasmanian foods has not been reported for many years because of confidentiality issues and the difficulty of obtaining data from companies operating in States other than Tasmania.

Similar data gaps for interstate trade in Tasmanian foods have also been overcome by using the ScoreCard methodology. For many items of food produced in Tasmania, interstate markets are often seen to be more important than markets overseas.

The ScoreCard is informed by data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and ABARE: gross value and quantity of production, export and import data, food retail and food service sales, food consumption data and Tasmanian population statistics.

Major findings in 2007-08

- Farm gate/beach point sales increased by \$169 million (14%) on the 2006-07 year.
- Increased dairy farm sales were a major contributor to that growth (+\$98 million), along with vegetables (+\$43 million), wine grapes (+\$15 million) and cherries (+\$15 million).
- Value added foods increased by \$218 million on the previous year.
- Increased dairy products (+\$106 million), beer (+\$74 million) and vegetables (+ \$53 million) were the main contributors to growth, offset by a decline in returns for some

seafoods.

- The vast majority (90%) of Tasmania's food trade revenue was generated by just 10 categories - dairy, confectionery, salmon, potatoes, beef, abalone, beer, lobster, carrots and onions.
- The significant growth in production was largely directed towards interstate markets. Interstate food sales were the major area of market growth (+\$154 million) in the 12 months. Major contributors to that result were dairy (\$115 million), beer (\$66 million) and vegetables (\$23 million).
- Overseas food exports did not change from 2006-07 (however in 2008-09 they fell \$14 million).
- Tasmania continued to produce a large net food trade surplus - more than 74% of food production was destined for overseas and interstate customers.
- Trade income in 2007-08 exceeded \$1.98 billion and that continued to underpin a substantial portion of Tasmania's economy.

To access the scorecard go to <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-87M46Y?open>

For more information contact Hugh Griffiths, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment on (03) 6233 3058 or by email at Hugh.Griffiths@dpiw.tas.gov.au

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COMMUNITY INDICATORS SEMINAR

The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently hosted a Community Indicators Seminar with international presenters speaking live from Canada via a teleconference hook-up to a national audience of government agency and community organisation representatives.

Doug May (Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada), Alton Hollett (Department of Finance, Executive Council, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada) and Robert Reid (Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada) gave an overview of the Newfoundland and Labrador System of Community Accounts. This included outlining recent developments in measuring community well-being, how changes are occurring to the way progress is measured, and linking community measures to broader measures (at a state or national level).

Tracey Chester (ABS) provided an update on [Measures of Australia's Progress](#) (MAP) (ABS cat. no. 1370.0), which is due for release on 15 September. MAP 2.0 will be more interactive and will feature a new-look homepage with links to headline indicators, improved navigation and a better overview of movement and progress. Keep a look out for the feature article: "What is progress?"

With the growing global movement to redefine progress, there is a sense that traditional measures of economic performance such as GDP, employment and income data do not adequately capture the full story of what is happening in society. Social as well as economic wellbeing must be taken into account. Mike Salvaris (RMIT) and Sue West (University of Melbourne) spoke about the Australian National Development Index (ANDI), a long term project being developed to measure Australia's economic, social and environmental progress, including social inclusion indicators. This has been partly based on the Canadian Index of Well-being (CIW), a comprehensive framework for measuring national progress, and recognised as a world leader.

The broad vision and goals of the Australian National Development Index are to:

- enable Australians to share in the highest wellbeing status by identifying, developing and publicising measures that offer clear, valid and regular reporting on progress toward that goal and wellbeing outcomes Australians seek as a nation, and specifically:
- build a foundation to articulate a shared vision of what really constitutes sustainable wellbeing
- measure national progress toward, or movement away from, achieving that vision
- aid understanding and promote awareness of why society is moving in the direction it is moving

- stimulate discussion about the types of policies, programs, and activities that would move us closer and faster toward achieving wellbeing
- give Australians tools to promote wellbeing with policy shapers and decision makers
- inform policy by helping policy shapers and decision makers to understand the consequences of their actions for Australian wellbeing
- empower Australians to compare their wellbeing both with others in Australia and those around the world
- add momentum to the global movement for a more holistic way of measuring societal progress.

A National Community Indicators Workshop will be held in Sydney on 15 September in conjunction with the NatStats 2010 Conference (15-17 September). For more information about the workshop, please email inquiries@nss.gov.au

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DISCUSSION PAPER - LAND ACCOUNT, AUSTRALIA

There is considerable interest in the development and implementation of environmental accounts in Australia and internationally. Despite this interest, there is a lack of knowledge and understanding of what environmental accounts actually mean and their potential for supporting environmental, social and economic policy.

Within Australia, a number of government agencies are involved in the production of environmental accounts and many other agencies have expressed an interest in developing them.

At present, the only active environmental account from Australia's national statistical agency, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is the Water Account, which is produced four-yearly with the next edition due for release in December 2010. The long term goal of the ABS is for the development of integrated environmental accounts for:

- water
- energy
- land
- environment protection expenditure
- waste.

A Discussion Paper, *Towards a Land Account, Australia - Drivers and Approaches*, is currently being circulated to relevant people in government, academia and businesses across Australia. The Land Account Discussion Paper describes the main concepts of land accounting and its potential for policy use and decision making.

The Discussion Paper is seeking advice on how output from a Land Account could be used to answer key policy questions and is also seeking assistance in identifying and accessing appropriate information sources.

The Paper is available by contacting Mark Lound in the Industry and Land Statistics Section of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on (02) 6252 6325 or by email at mark.lound@abs.gov.au

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UNDERSTANDING DATA QUALITY - HELPING YOU MAKE BETTER DECISIONS

The National Statistical Service (NSS), a community of government agencies led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management through its DATAfitness program. DATAfitness encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management.

Over the past few years, the call has been put out for public policies to be informed by good evidence. Statistical information is now answering that call. Statistical information has long been

recognised as being good evidence, which places it at the heart of evidence-based policy.

As part of its DATAfitness program, the NSS has developed [Data Quality Online \(DQO\)](#), an easy-to-use online support system for data collectors, providers and users.

DQO is the first assistant of its kind in the world and provides clear and simple support to those involved in understanding data, and using it to make decisions.

DQO helps users to draft data quality statements, and can now be used to compile general purpose quality statements for a variety of data sets (e.g. administrative data, survey data) whilst continuing to support users to draft tailored, indicator-driven quality statements for Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Performance reporting.

The NSS officially launched the DQO in August 2010, in conjunction with the ABS. DQO is based on the nationally recognised [ABS Data Quality Framework](#), which provides a consistent standard for describing the quality of data.

For further information on DQO or to take a look at the site, visit the [NSS website](#). For more information on DATAfitness, visit www.nss.gov.au/DataQuality or email inquiries@nss.gov.au

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COMMONWEALTH HEALTH AGENCIES ENDORSE STATISTICAL INTEGRATION PRINCIPLES

Agency secretaries from Commonwealth agencies spanning health portfolios have endorsed a set of principles for statistical integration.

The statistical integration project is a joint initiative of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Health and Ageing.

The **principles**, which were endorsed in February 2010, are:

1. Responsible agencies should treat data as a strategic resource and design and manage administrative data to support their wider statistical research use.
2. Agencies responsible for source data used in statistical data integration remain individually accountable for their security and confidentiality.
3. A responsible 'integrating authority' will be nominated for each data integration proposal.
4. Statistical integration should only occur when it provides significant overall benefit to the public.
5. Statistical data integration must be used for statistical and research purposes only.
6. Policies and procedures used in data integration must minimise any potential impact on privacy and confidentiality.
7. Statistical data integration will be conducted in an open and accountable way.

The integration project is being coordinated by a Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee (CPSIC) and is currently developing governance and institutional arrangements to give effect to the integration principles.

For further information on the initiative, call Chris Carswell on (03) 6222 5848 or by email at chris.carswell@abs.gov.au

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INTERESTED IN TASMANIAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS?

Here are some publications that contain the data you may be looking for.....

Tasmanian Key Indicators (TKI) (cat. no. 1304.6)

Tasmanian Key Indicators is a web-based product containing the latest social and economic summary data on Tasmania, including:

- labour force
- wages and prices
- tourism
- finance
- consumption and investment
- state accounts
- population
- living arrangements
- mortality
- education
- health.

Tasmanian Key Indicators features links to source publications on the ABS website to enable readers to explore particular topics in more detail. The data is also presented in an Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab.

It is released on a monthly basis.

[Link to Tasmanian Key Indicators \(cat. no. 1304.6\)](#)

Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (TSRI) (cat. no. 1307.6)

Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators is a compendium of summary statistical information about Tasmania. Information is presented by topic, with more detailed data in Excel spreadsheets.

The publication contains summary commentary, tables, maps and graphs and some non-ABS and regional data are also included.

Topics covered include:

- labour
- economic activity
- industry
- population
- family and community
- household economic resources
- education
- housing
- transport
- crime and justice
- health
- environment.

There is also an index of feature articles.

It is released on a quarterly basis.

[Link to Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators \(cat. no. 1307.6\)](#)

Want to subscribe to these publications for free?

Please sign up to our email notification service by clicking on the following link (see instructions below in three easy steps): [email notification service](#)

Three steps to subscribe....

Step 1

Using the drop-down arrows,

For **topic**, select

1. General

and then press <Go>

For **sub-topic**, select

13. Year books and other multi-subject products

and then press <Go>

Select the publication(s) to which you would like to subscribe

(e.g. 1304.6 - Tasmanian Key Indicators)

and then press <Add>

Step 2

Enter your email address

Step 3

Submit your request

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How Can We Help



HOW CAN WE HELP

General statistical inquiries

Upcoming training and events

Statistical training

GENERAL STATISTICAL INQUIRIES

We can help you to make a more informed decision...

Our consultants are available to discuss your information needs, and assist you to obtain the data which will best meet your requirements.

A range of published data is available free of charge on our website and more detailed data can be tailored to your requirements as part of our priced information consultancy service. Contact our consultants who will discuss your needs in detail and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Phone: 1300 135 070 (between 9.00am-5.00pm EST)

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

Fax: 1300 135 211

Post: Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, 2001

[Online Enquiry Form](#)

To find out more about how we can customise data tailored to meet your needs check out our [Information Consultancy Services](#) brochure online.

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UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS



NatStats 2010 Conference starts next week!! Register Now!!

NatStats 2010 will be held from 15 - 17 September 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

In line with the overall themes for the conference, "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia", conference speakers will explore drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's progress, identify the challenges facing Australia in the coming decades, and will highlight the importance of policies and strategies in understanding and responding to these challenges. The role that a statistical framework will play in enabling a greater understanding of these challenges, in forming research and public debate, and in helping to develop practical responses, will also be discussed.

NatStats 2010 Keynote Speakers include Dr Ken Henry AC, Secretary, Commonwealth Treasury, the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop AC, Director, Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney, Ms Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director, OECD Statistics Directorate, and Mr Phil Lowe, Assistant Governor (Economic), Reserve Bank of Australia.

Other NatStats 2010 speakers include: Ms Jane Halton PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing, Mr Paul McClintock AO, Chairman, COAG Reform Council, Mr Geoff Allen, Chairman, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, Auditor-General, Mr Peter Achterstraat, Auditor-General (NSW) and Ms Mary Doherty, General Manager, Sanctuary Energy.

For a full list of confirmed speakers and program please visit the NatStats Conference website or email natstats@nss.gov.au

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15th BIENNIAL AUSTRALIAN POPULATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The **15th biennial Australian Population Association Conference** will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Surfers Paradise, from Tuesday, 30 November to Friday, 3 December 2010.

The theme of the conference is '**The impacts of generational change**'.

Keynote speakers include:

- Prof Paul Boyle - St Andrews Scotland
- Prof Peter McDonald - ANU Canberra
- Prof Gavin Jones - ARI Singapore and
- Dr Tom Wilson - UQ Queensland.

"Population growth and demographic change are certainly hot topics of the moment. The recent release of the 3rd Intergenerational Report stimulated widespread interest, particularly the prospect of Australia's population reaching 35.9 million by 2050. IGR3 re-focused policy makers' attention on the ageing of the population and how the costs of this significant change can be borne by Government.

Notwithstanding the potentially substantial budget impacts, projected changes to Australia's age structure have a range of implications. This is the theme of the Australian Population Association's 2010 national conference – the impacts of generational change.

Here is your opportunity to contribute to the debate. Should Australia continue to allow a large overseas migrant intake and what are the consequences? Will current high fertility levels continue into the future? Can we overcome potential impacts on living standards by working harder and smarter?

Join Australia's principal demographic thinkers as we consider these vital questions. Add your voice – and particularly the results of your research – to the debate. Hear the views and form your own opinion – our future depends on it."

Alison Taylor, Conference Chair - APA Qld

For conference program, include keynote speakers, venue and accommodation details please visit the Conference website.

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NEED SOME STATISTICAL TRAINING?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides training on a range of topics to develop skills for high quality statistical collections and statistical analysis.

Our training programs are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in areas such as:

- questionnaire design
- data analysis
- survey management.

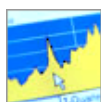
The courses teach practical skills by involving participants in individual and group exercises. We also hold regular seminars which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues.

The following link will take you to a list of some of the courses that the Tasmanian Office of the ABS has run: [Tas Training Courses](#).

If the training requirements of your organisation are not met in the list of courses above, the ABS can customise training according to your needs. Please email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au and one of our consultants will phone you to discuss how the ABS can help you.

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Statistical Literacy



STATISTICAL LITERACY

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

Making sense of statistics is vital for informed decision-making. To build your statistical know-how check out [Understanding Statistics](#) on the ABS website. There are some excellent resources contained within these pages, some are very basic, whilst others go in to more depth. There are quizzes, video tutorials and online presentations. A great resource for anyone wanting to know more about statistics and the ABS website.

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICAL CONCEPTS

In today's information-rich society, we encounter statistical information on a daily basis, ranging from unemployment rates, retail figures and cancer rates, to football ladders and cricket scores. Statistics tell interesting stories and enable us to make sense of the world. Statistics are essential for research, planning and decision-making purposes.

There are several concepts that recur throughout the literature on statistical literacy. These fall into four key areas and can be considered in a practical manner as 'criteria' on which to base statistical literacy:

1. Data awareness
2. The ability to understand statistical concepts
3. The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
4. The ability to communicate statistical information and understandings.

In this issue, we will focus on understanding statistical concepts, and examine the difference between mean, median and mode. The centre of a data set is important. It is often useful to know what the value is for most of the sample or population. In the ABS there are two main measures of central location: the mean and the median.

Mean

The mean, or average, is calculated by summing all of the observed values and dividing by the number of observations. The mean is the simplest way to summarise a single variable and it is generally the best measure of central location for purposes of statistical inference.

Median

The median is the middle value of a set of observations. There are as many observations above the median as there are below it. To find the median, observations must be arranged in order of value. Median is useful for variables such as age, income, turnover and housing prices.

Mode

The mode is the most commonly observed data item in a data set. A set of data can have more than one mode. The mode is useful when the most common item, characteristic or value of a data set is required.

Comparing the mean and the median: which is the most appropriate measure to use?

Turning data into information is an essential skill. Communicating statistical information accurately is vital for effective decision making. To ensure integrity, statistical literacy demands that we question how the data are reported and the reliability of conclusions that are drawn. Bad conclusions can still be drawn from good data. Be aware that using basic summary numbers, such as averages, can sometimes be misleading.

Example 1:

If students attending a tutorial group were aged 18, 18, 19, 19, 21, 22 and 51,
the **mean** age of the group would be $18 + 18 + 19 + 19 + 21 + 22 + 51 = 168 / 7 = 24$
the **median** age of the group would be the middle value of 19.

Which age best represents the average age of the group? In this case, the mean age is distorted by the presence of the mature age student. The median age would be a closer indication of the true average age of the tutorial group.

If houses in Hobart were advertised for sale at \$275,000, \$295,000, \$300,000, \$325,000 and \$850,000 respectively, using the **mean** to calculate the average house price would produce a figure of \$409,000 (ie. $275,000 + 295,000 + 300,000 + 325,000 + 850,000 = 2,045,000 / 5 = 409,000$). This gives an over-inflated impression of house values in Hobart. In reality, the **median** value of \$300,000 would give a much more accurate picture of average house prices.

In upcoming issues of Tasmanian Statistical News we will discuss other statistical literacy concepts in more detail. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about statistical literacy and its relevance to you, check out the article: [What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate?](#) as featured in Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (ABS cat. no. 1307.6) or visit the [Understanding Statistics](#) portal on the ABS website.

Recent Releases



11/08/10 Lending Finance, Australia, Jun 2010 (cat. no. 5671.0)

Contains time series data on the value of monthly commitments for secured housing finance, other personal finance, commercial and lease finance. Includes summary tables of personal and commercial finance commitments under fixed and revolving credit facilities, the value of goods under finance lease commitments, and the value of personal, commercial and lease finance commitments by purpose. Also included are thematic tables on the financing of housing, motor vehicles and plant and equipment.

05/08/10 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3235.0)

This product contains estimates of the resident population by age (in five-year age groups up to 85 and over) and sex as at 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2009. The areas for which estimates are provided are Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and states and territories of Australia, according to the 2009 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

30/07/10 Health Services: Patient Experiences in Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4839.0.55.001)

This publication presents summary results from the 2009 Patient Experience Survey. The survey was conducted from July to December 2009, collecting Australians' views of their health care experiences in the last 12 months. It provides data on characteristics and experiences of both people that accessed health services, and those that did not.

06/07/10 Schools, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4221.0)

This publication contains statistics on schools, students and teaching staff involved in the provision or administration of primary and secondary education, in government and non-government schools for all Australian states and territories. Schools are classified by level of education (primary, secondary or combined); category (government, non-government); non-government affiliation (catholic or independent). Students are classified by level and year of education, Indigenous status, full-time or part-time status, age at 1 July, category of school and sex. Teaching staff are classified by level of school education, category of school and sex. Also included are derived measures of student participation, continuation, progression (new in 2008) and retention, and ratios of students to teachers. Many of the statistical tables include selected time series.

01/07/10 Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, Mar 2010 (cat. no. 8762.0)

Contains value of engineering construction work done, commenced and yet to be done, classified by state or territory, commodity (roads, bridges, pipelines etc), sector (public/private) undertaking the work, and sector for whom the work is being done. Includes seasonally adjusted estimates of the value of work done by sector in both current prices and in chain volume measure terms.

30/06/10 Australian Social Trends, Jun 2010 (cat. no. 4102.0)

Released quarterly, Australian Social Trends presents analysis and commentary on a wide range of social issues. The June edition includes articles on: Population growth; Child care; Men's health; Underemployment; and, Environmental awareness and action.

24/06/10 Perspectives on Sport, June 2010 (cat. no. 4156.0.55.001)

Issues and debates relating to sport and sporting programs are common place within the Australian political and media landscape. The National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics (NCCRS), through the 'Perspectives on Sport' series attempts to provide informed commentary to assist those interested in these major issues.

03/06/10 Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4510.0)

This publication presents national crime statistics relating to victims of a selected range of personal and household offences that have been recorded by police. These statistics provide indicators of the level and nature of recorded crime victimisation in Australia and a basis for measuring change over

time.

21/05/10 Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2009 (cat. no. 6342.0)

Provides information about paid employees (excluding payment in kind and contributing family workers) aged 15 years and over and their working arrangements, such as shift work, overtime, rostered days off and start and finish times. Among the topics covered are full-time/part-time status, industry, occupation, hours worked, overtime or extra hours worked, job scheduling, days worked and information about core employment benefits, such as leave entitlements. Estimates can be cross-classified by demographics such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth, as well as labour force characteristics.

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About this Release

Tasmanian Statistical News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing information about new developments including projects, surveys, outposted ABS officers, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

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